

TREATY SIGNED FOR PURCHASE OF WEST INDIES FROM DENMARK

Secretary Lansing and Danish Minister Conclude Execution of Document for Formal Ratification.

SENATE MUST FIRST
APPROVE THE DEAL

Twenty-five Million Dollars to
Be Paid for Three Small
Pieces of Land Which Do
the Atlantic Ocean.

(BY MORNING JOURNAL SPECIAL LEADER WIRE)
Washington, Aug. 4.—Purchase by the United States of the Islands of St. Thomas, St. Croix and St. John, to the east of Porto Rico and comprising an archipelago known as the Danish West Indies, is provided for in a treaty signed today by the United States and Denmark. It will be submitted and

No serious opposition is expected in the senate, where action will be sought at the present session. Since the negotiations begun several months ago, the foreign relations committee has been in close touch with development and its members are understood to be virtually unanimous in their support.

approval. Senator Lodge, the ranking republican member, issued a statement tonight declaring the argument in favor of acquisition of the islands are unanswerable. The only objection is expected to come from senators who believe the purchase price of \$25,000,000 too great.

Germany May Talk It.

The outcome in the Danish parliament is more uncertain, although the expectation here is that the treaty will be accepted. European powers, which have wanted possession of the islands for strategic military reasons, are not expected to look with favor on the proposed sale to the United States and

Signed in New York.
The signing of the treaty took place in New York, where Secretary Lansing and Constantin Brin, the Danish ambassador, were present.

which will be filed at the state department was brought to Washington tonight by Assistant Solicitor Woolsey

Detail of the pact will not be made public until it is transmitted to the senate, at least. It is understood to provide, however, for complete acquisition of the islands, but to stipulate that Danish business interests there

shall be guaranteed protection. A clause also is included ceding to Denmark the undefined American rights of discovery in Greenland, a Danish possession.

Might Lead to War.

Senator Lodge emphasized in his statement tonight the possibility that the islands, if not acquired by the United States, might fall into the hands of some European power and involve this government in difficult

ties under the Monroe doctrine, which might easily lead to war"—a consideration which it is understood has been prominently before the eyes of officials here in their negotiations for the purchase.

Great Strategic Value.
 "In the interest of peace," said Senator Lodge, "it is of great importance that these islands should pass into the hands of the United States. From a military point of view their value can-

hardly be overestimated. The harbour of St. Thomas fulfils all the required naval and military conditions. As has been pointed out by the late Admiral Mohan, it is one of the most strategic points in the West In-

The population is only 25,000, of whom nearly 10,000 are negroes. There is no possibility of any material increase of population, and annexation would never involve at any time the

"The Danish islands could be readily defended from attack, occupy a commanding strategic position and are of inestimable value to the United States."

**PROFESSOR USHER
DISCUSSES PURCHASE**

Prof. Roland G. Usher gives out the following statement regarding the

Few things President Wilson's administration has proposed have seemed to me more admirable and less open to criticism than the purchase of the Danish West Indies. But

I am afraid that many Americans look upon it as a sort of real estate speculation in which the speculation is mostly on our side and the sure thing with the Danes. They get rid of something of no tangible value for

"The area is not large enough to make a difference as a place for set-

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